

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 09187 201758Z

11
ACTION EUR-12

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EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

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INFO AMEMBASSY TOYKO

ALL EC CAPITALS 2503

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 09187

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EC

SUBJECT: EC CONCERN OVER JAPANESE SHIPBUILDING

REF: EC BRUSSELS A-284

1. EC COMMISSIONER GUAZZARONI HAS BENT AMBASSADOR HINTON'S EAR ON EC PROBLEMS WITH JAPANESE SHIPBUILDERS. GUAZZARONI SAID THAT IN PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT TALKS THE GOJ HAD INDICATED A POSSIBLE WILLINGNESS TO REDUCE ITS SHIPYARD CAPACITY. BUT, GUAZZARONI ADDED THAT A ROME MEETING WHICH THE EC HAD HOPED WOULD LEAD TO JAPANESE AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE ENDED IN DISASTER. JAPANESE INDUSTRIALISTS WERE NOT PREPARED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON CAPACITY, OR ANYTHING ELSE.

2. MEANWHILE, GUAZZARONI SAID THE EC SHARE OF THE WORLD'S SHIPBUILDING MARKET HAS DROPPED FROM 40 TO 20 PERCENT WHILE JAPAN HAS GRABBED THE BULK OF THE MARKET. GUAZZARONI MADE CLEAR THAT THIS WILL BE A PRIORITY ITEM ON HIS AGENDA. (SEE REF ON EC CONCERN OVER SHIPBUILDING PROBLEM) HE EXPECTS THAT THE COMMISSION WILL HAVE TO ENTER INTO BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE, BUT HE INDICATED THAT BASED ON HIS PAST EXPERIENCE WITH JAPANESE THEY WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CRACK. MORRIS
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 09187 201758Z

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Message Attributes

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